The Salt Lake Tribune
Tuesday Morning, November 6, 1956

Your Ballot Counts as Much as Anybody's

This is your day, good citizens.

Tomorrow the most important person in the United States will be the newly designated President, and Utah's top man of distinction will be the governor-elect.

Today, however, the most important person will be the voter exercising his privilege in the voting booth. Each will be one of millions, to be sure, but each will be just as important and just as powerful as any other voter in the state and nation.

For a short time each voter, unique through all eternity, is a part of government—very possibly a determining part. Alone behind the curtain he is completely free. No one, not a single individual or organization, can tell him or her how to vote or will ever know how he voted if he chooses not to tell.

The polls are open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. — surely affording sufficient time for the busiest person to cast his ballot.

And in most cases those who vote early will avoid having to wait, will save themselves time and help expedite the election.

The privilege of the free election was one of the things for which Hungarians bled and died these last few weeks. Free balloting is considered a wonderful privilege almost everywhere, but is denied to millions.

It is a recurring puzzle, therefore, why so many Americans fail to vote. Non-voting, says Henry Steele Commager, is the great paradox of American politics. The United States, he points out, was the first country to proclaim officially that all governments derive their powers from the consent of the governed, and to provide, in the constitutional convention, a mechanism whereby people could alter or abolish old governments and institute new ones. It was the first nation, after Switzerland, to provide something like universal manhood suffrage. And it was, in a very real sense, the nation that invented the political party and that has carried that remarkable invention to its farthest development.

Even so, the American voting record is the sorriest of any Western democracy. Compared with over 75 per cent of British and Swedish voters who participate in their elections, over 80 per cent of the Danes, French and Germans and over 90 per cent of the Dutch and Belgians, between 40 and 60 per cent of Americans have balloted at elections over the years.

Utah's record is traditionally better than the national average for voter participation and in 1952 this state led all others in election participation by eligible citizens. Yet even that year, some 20,000 Utahns failed to take advantage of the unique privilege.

Of the three broad categories of non-voters—those who are prevented or discouraged from voting by legal or practical difficulties, those who are convinced the gesture is futile because of one-party systems, and those too apathetic—the third category is the largest.

The right to vote carries with it the right not to vote, so compulsory voting is not the solution. Nor is it being a good citizen to merely vote blindly—without learning something about the issues and the candidates. We need more than voters. We need informed voters.

Remember this: You have the privilege today of voting for the president of the United States the only time in four years, and for governor, other state and county officials, members of the Board of Education, and for members of Congress the only time in two, four or six years. Study the list of candidates and vote!

If you pass up the privilege, you fail as a citizen and you forfeit the right to criticize your government and the agents of government.

This Brutal Assault

Hungary is back in Russian control. Her brave people who fought the Soviet troops almost with their bare hands, and with initial success, are once more subjected. Leaders of the rebellion were captured or are fleeing for their very lives.

It is a sickening story, a sad end to what for a time seemed to be a hopeful emergence of a captive people from the dungeon of Communist tyranny.

Even the Hungarians, who know the Russians better than most, believed they had won their fight. New chiefs of Hungary's defense forces were lured out of Budapest by Russian promises to negotiate withdrawal of Soviet troops. Then, in one of the worst examples of treachery in modern times, the Russians suddenly struck in all parts of Hungary Sunday.

No one knows how many Hungarians died in battle, or still will die before firing squads, in this freedom fight. It could well be many thousands.

These, it may now be said, have died in vain. But we think not. They have succeeded in emblazoning Hungary before the eyes of the world as an example of Russian tyranny and treachery. The Soviet Union has won back control of Hungary—but it did so by guile and brute force in a full spotlight on the world stage.

People in other satellite nations, in the neutral countries of Asia and Africa, as well as those in anti-Communist lands, should now know the hollowness of Russian talk of peace, of freedom and of national independence.

The world also knows that the desire for freedom cannot be choked off by Communist domination or indoctrination. After more than 10 years the Hungarians rose almost unitedly to demand freedom—and it was the indoctrinated youth who were in the vanguard!

The black curtain may fall on Hungary again. But the glimpse of a fighting, communism-resisting people, will not be forgotten by the world. Nor will the martyrdom of those who fought for freedom be forgotten by the Hungarian people themselves. And it will be many a long day before the Soviet Union lives down the shame of this brutal assault on a helpless people.

Disfranchised Citizens

In 1897 the Utah Legislature adopted a statute providing that "any person living upon any Indian or military reservation shall not be deemed a resident of Utah . . . unless such person had acquired a residence in some county in Utah prior to taking up his residence upon such Indian or military reservation."

The effect of the law was to deprive residents of reservations within Utah of the right to vote in the state. Specifically, as now interpreted, it prevents reservation Indians from voting in Utah.

A 1924 act of Congress declared all Indians citizens of the United States, and of the states. More recently federal action has been taken to terminate federal control over Indian tribes and various forms of discrimination have been eliminated. Indians are subject to the same draft laws as other citizens and many have given their lives in the country's defense. They are free to move away from reservations, many are well educated and hold positions of responsibility and, with the exception of the property tax from which reservation Indians are exempt, Indians pay taxes just as do other citizens.

In 1940 a Utah attorney general ruled that "the doubt should be resolved in favor of granting the franchise to the citizens residing in the Uintah Reservation. . . ." Last March, however, the present attorney general ruled that "Indians who live on the reservations are not entitled to vote in Utah" and this was subsequently upheld by the State Supreme Court. Preston Allen, a Utah Ute Indian, has carried the case to the U. S. Supreme Court. In asking for the vote for himself and other members of his tribe on reservations he claims the statute is not enforced against white persons living on reservations. Interestingly, Allen himself was permitted to vote previous to this year.

The highest tribunal did not act on the case prior to this year's general election. Irrespective of its decision, however, the Utah State Legislature has a solemn responsibility to wipe out this gross discrimination against American citizens.

John Wesley's Advice

The counsel of John Wesley, the famed founder of Methodism, applies today on the morning of a national election. He said:

"Act as if the whole election depended on your single vote, and as if the whole parliament (and therein the whole nation) on that single person whom you now choose to be a member of it."

Dulles Sidelined

Secretary of State Dulles' serious illness comes at a time when the administration's foreign policy is facing a most crucial test. The Western Alliance has been badly shaken by Anglo-French military action against Egypt. Russia, acting in the old Stalinist style, has used armed force to crush the Hungarian people's bid for freedom. The United Nations is caught in a squeeze of power politics.

Mr. Dulles is one of the chief architects of American policy. Equally important, he personifies the State Department and, through his global travels, is intimately acquainted with the complexities of foreign affairs. To have him sidelined at this moment in world history is a blow the seriousness of which cannot be minimized.

We hope that Mr. Dulles' absence will be only temporary. However, the nature of his illness (cancer) and the possible effect of major surgery upon a man of 68 must not be overlooked. We pray that Mr. Dulles will be restored to full health and that he will be able to resume some, at least, of the many duties he has shouldered for nearly four years. His experience and counsel will be sorely needed by both this country and the free world in the days ahead.

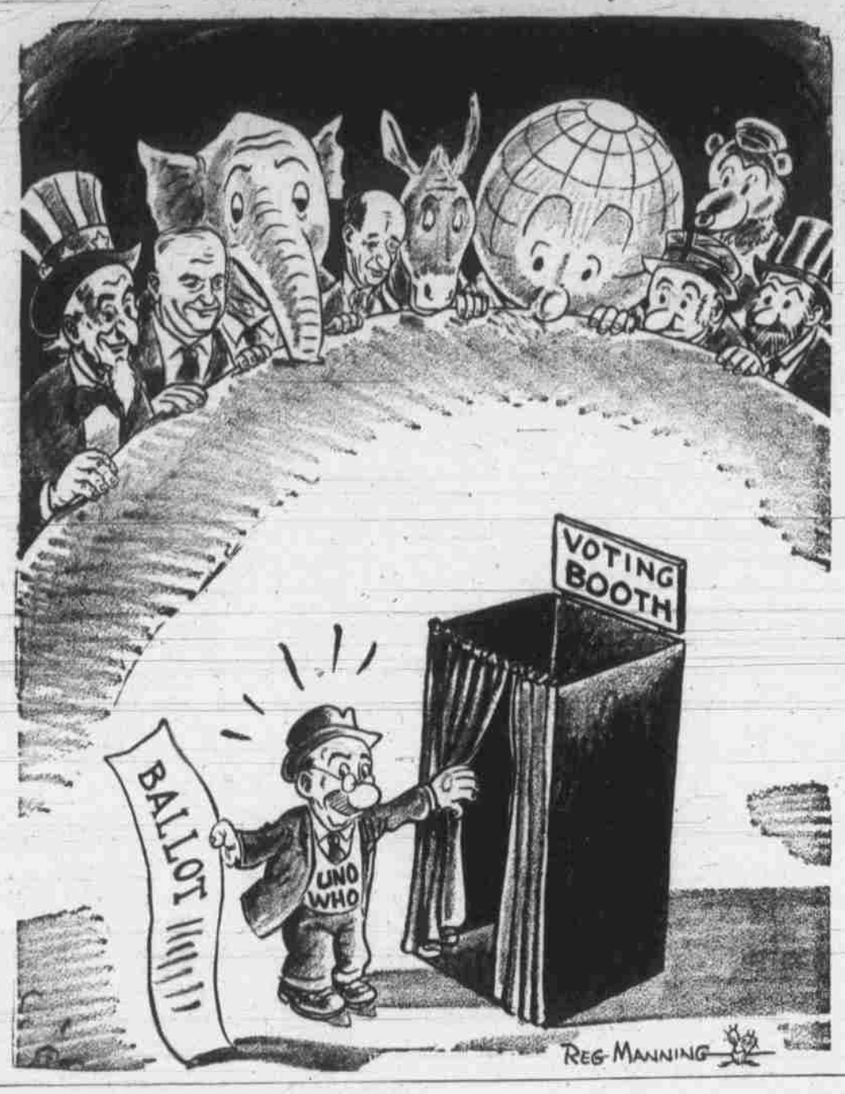
From New York comes word of a hold-up by two bandits in gray flannel suits. Last seen, we assume, melting into the crowd on Madison Avenue.

The fellow at the next desk says he would have a better idea of how this Irish actress, Siobhan McKenna, spells her first name if he knew what name she was trying to spell.

Tilly likes to go where there's fun to be had, no matter who takes her. She votes for the party, not the man.

Now there is a mechanical baby-rocker on the market, but dear old Mom will still be saluted as the hand that pushes the button that rocks the cradle.

World's No. 1 Man Today



Marquis Childs

Adlai's H-Bomb Plea Helps Dispel Secrecy

WASHINGTON — In the rush and heat of a political campaign expediency leads otherwise sane and sensible men to say things which they might not have said in calmer circumstances.

Mr. Childs

The little heads are already bobbing up to say, in effect, that if only Adlai Stevenson had been more expedient he would at this moment have a better chance of winning than he is given in the public opinion polls. This is said particularly with respect to Stevenson's challenge on the testing of nuclear weapons. There was no political mileage in it, the wise boys pronounce.

But no matter how the election comes out it seems to this observer that, expediency to one side, Stevenson has performed for the nation and the world a great service.

HE HAS DONE this if only in pulling aside a corner of the tight curtain of secrecy maintained around the whole question of the contamination of the atmosphere and the potential threat to human life on the earth.

The denials from the White House and from Chairman Lewis Strauss of the Atomic Energy Commission cannot obscure the peril of unlimited testing. Nor do these denials alter the fact that persons high in the Eisenhower administration did recommend that the government come forward with proposals for limiting or halting at least temporarily the H-bomb tests.

One was Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, who expressed the belief that America's position before the world would be greatly strengthened if we could go to the General Assembly of the United Nations with a proposal to limit the tests by agreement among the atomic powers.

Another was Harold Stassen, President Eisenhower's adviser on peace.

Stassen gave it as his opinion that such a proposal would contribute toward getting the disarmament debate off the dead center where it has been stalled for so long. This last is a part, and perhaps the strongest part, of the argument Stevenson has made for initiating talks that could lead to an end to the tests of the big bombs.

Dulles and Stassen made their recommendations prior to the Sept. 11 meeting of the National Security Council.

At that meeting the view of Strauss and the Pentagon in adamant opposition to any gesture that might hamper the right of unlimited testing prevailed.

AFTERWARD one policy maker threw up his hands and said with something like despair: "This is the greatest mistake the Eisenhower administration has made thus far."

So it is correct that the President never approved any change in the administration position on testing. But it is untrue to suggest that there was unanimity within the administration on this view and that there were not those who felt almost as strongly about it as Stevenson.

With a corner of the curtain of secrecy raised, we have begun to get some intimation of the peril.

The word of one of the nation's greatest cancer specialists, Dr. Everts A. Graham, who says that the present burden of strontium 90 comprises a public health problem of serious magnitude, cannot be pooh-poohed as Strauss is busily engaged in doing.

Such remarkable advances have been made on the intercontinental ballistic missile with a range of 5,000 miles that, it can be said with authority, the Air Force is rapidly approaching the testing stage of this ultimate weapon. It will be tested first as a dud; that is to say, without an atomic warhead.

IF THE TESTING of the ICBM with a nuclear warhead proceeds without any effort to halt the process by realistic mutual agreement, then we shall very likely have reached the point of no return.

Some of Strauss' partisans are now saying that since the guns have begun firing in the Middle East the Stevenson argument is completely invalidated.

This is like saying that since the children have begun to use their pop guns we must hurry and make sure they are equipped with atomic hand grenades.

For all the horrors reflected in each day's headlines, the black and awful tragedy in Hungary, it may be that in the perspective of even a few years Stevenson's challenge on the H-bomb will stand out for what it is—a courageous attempt to check the race to self-destruction. Perhaps that sort of thing does not win elections. But if attitudes have not now become frozen, if in a calmer atmosphere after the election the question might be re-examined, it may win a reprieve for mankind.

Senator From Sandpit

By Ham Park

If it weren't for the optimist, the pessimist would never know how happy he wasn't. —Isaiah Jr.

Pious Platitudes, Inc.

About the only time I get real pessimistic is when I read some of the stuff of our highly paid pseudo-philosophers. Then for an antidote I grab hold of some genuine philosophy — like this from "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch":

Ham Park

"I believe in gittin' as much outen life as you kin—not that I ever set out to look for happiness; seems like the folks that does never finds it. I jes' do the best I kin where the good Lord puts me at, an' it looks like I got a happy feelin' in me 'most all the time."

Notes On the Cuff Department

The recent raids by the vice squads remind me of an incident that occurred during prohibition.

It had leaked out that a certain speakeasy was to be raided. There being no one else available, the city editor sent a cub reporter to get the story. He dashed into the speakeasy in the midst of the evening's festivities. He rushed up to the proprietor and asked excitedly: "Was this place raided tonight? I'm a reporter."

"Raided?" exclaimed the proprietor. "Certainly not. Does it look like it?"

"All right then," said the cub in tone of relief. "I'll wait."

But after a few hectic moments he found himself quite alone.

And the way candidates climb on and off political platforms reminds me of the story of the parson who rode a mule while visiting his flock. One day the mule got one foot caught in a stirrup. "All right," said the parson, "if you're going to get on, I'm getting off."

Last week the Missus and I attended a special preview of the motion picture "Friendly Persuasion," starring Gary Cooper, Dorothy McGuire and Marjorie Main. The story is from the book by Jessamyn West, and deals chiefly with a Quaker family living in southern Indiana during the Civil War. We liked it. Nearly every production has a "scene stealer." In this one it's a trained goose.

Gus Backman was preparing a speech to give at a banquet. As he dictated it his secretary wrote "these sour times" for "these our times," and Gus let it stand.

Mel Flegal remarked rather sagely that it was a waste of time trying to curb our bad habits because it won't be long until they're all abolished by constitutional amendments.

These Politicians!

These politicians, they are
Rippers.
They rip the seams and tear
The zippers.
They're ripping this, they're
Ripping that.
They rip the lowly Democrat;
They rip the top Republican—
The big shot and the little
Gun.
There's so darned much
Evisceration . . .
Who'll be left to run the
Nation?

—Mademoiselle X.

The Public Forum

By Our Readers

In Office Too Long

Editor, Tribune: One thing I like about Clyde is the very thing he's being criticized for: not being a career politician.

I will be happy to vote for a citizen with an outstanding record rather than for a man who is a politician. Both Romney and Lee are long-time politicians. Both have been in office too long. We need a change from politicians to citizens. Clyde provides the voters that opportunity.

Don Isbell

Pot and Kettle

Editor, Tribune: It was amusing to read that our Harry had called our Brack "the most obnoxious governor in the United States."

Boy! Was this ever a case of the pot calling the kettle black!

David Johnson

Forgets Depression

Editor, Tribune: Walter H. Hampton writes about the shedding of innocent blood during the wars under the Democrats. However, he forgot to mention the starving of the innocent during the depression under the Republicans.

Mrs. J. H. Henriksen

Should Withdraw

Editor, Tribune: I am a great admirer of Gov. Lee. He is a fine administrator and a real American. Even as he campaigns at this time, I think he sincerely believes he is crusading in a worthy cause.

But I wish I could appeal to him to withdraw even at this late hour. Can't he see what terrible injury he is doing to the state, to his party, and to my party?

M. Paxman

Thanks to Lee

Editor, Tribune: This is to express my thanks to J. Bracken Lee for becoming an independent candidate for governor.

After the primary election, I had decided not to vote in the general election because I felt that one candidate—an unknown—was thrust upon me by the Republican Party. The other candidate would most certainly be obligated to move the city hall gang into the capitol with him, and I didn't want that.

So thanks to Gov. Lee and here's my vote.

Don Williams

Only Two Parties

Editor, Tribune: American politics is funny—except when it is tragic.

One man in Utah has seen fit to discard the two-party system. Let's show him there are only two parties in Utah and that Citizens for Lee is not one of them.

Bruce Williams

Can't Be Beat

Editor, Tribune: What is a poor loser? Is a boxer who is knocked down in the fifth round and comes back to win in the 10th a poor loser? It seems to me he is a good fighter!

Mr. J. Bracken Lee has a great many firm, wise and sound convictions. Politically he was knocked down in the fifth-round primaries. However, a great crowd of Utah people, knowing what this man has done for our state, cheered him into meeting the sixth-round bell. This fighter had the guts to come out swinging. I hope he wins on Nov. 6.

Hugh W. Evans

Adlai's Warning

Editor, Tribune: I am deeply concerned about your apparent desire to delete or smother any news of a partisan nature which does not meet with your own particular brand of political philosophy. The Constitution guarantees freedom of the press. This does not mean that you are free to print only what you please. I for one wish to hear both sides of every issue.

We are sitting on the brink of an atomic war. The front page of your paper has been the Ike page.

One year ago a great thinker, Adlai Stevenson, warned the nation that war between Israel was imminent. He also suggested ways and means of preventing the catastrophe. Last week at Philadelphia he reminded the American people of this fact. I wish a satisfactory explanation as to why you have not printed one word pertaining to this fact.

James A. Phillips,
Nephi, Utah.

It's Pathetic

Editor, Tribune: It's pathetic the way the people of Utah take such a strong stand against Lee and then slowly give in to him.

We bicker when Gov. Lee is in office as how he does nothing for Utah, how he embarrasses the state by throwing mud at the national government. Yet what happens? He gets through the Republican convention.

As the returns of the primary came in we saw him being defeated. We felt we'd accomplished something by electing two new candidates for the office, eager to see what their campaigns would be and relieved that we no longer had Lee to worry about.

What happens? Lee announces that he will run for governor independently.

Now the people are beginning to change their mind and consider Lee again.

Does the public want Lee again so they can gripe some more? What's the matter with the people, are they afraid to vote for someone new?

Joanne E. Tucker

Be Business-Like

Editor, Tribune: Anyone operating a business, no matter how small, tries to get the best possible manager for it. No one would think of turning his shop or his factory over to a person who had no experience in the job, no matter how sincere and honest that person might be.

Yet that is what the politicians are asking the voters of Utah to do in this election. Running a state is a vast and complicated business, involving the expenditure of millions of taxpayers' dollars. Would it be wise to throw out a manager who has proved wise, honest, economical and efficient and replace him with someone who has had no experience whatever? You wouldn't do it in your business and we voters are not going to do it in Utah. We're going to re-elect Lee as governor—a man we can trust and one who has proved that he will do a good job for us.

L. B. Jensen

Why the Change

Editor, Tribune: After a recent University of Utah Board of Regents meeting, the chairman of the board, William O'Conner, Gov. Lee's close friend, stated that "the people of Utah have got to get their heads out of the sand and realize it's going to cost more for education. We've run on a starvation diet at this University since I've been here." (exact quotation).

On the KSL-TV program, "Clear the Air," in behalf of Gov. Lee's candidacy, Mr. O'Conner blandly remarked that state legislature and Gov. Lee had been very generous with the University of Utah. Then a film was flashed on the screen which showed recent building activity on the campus. Actually the Union Building is not being built with state funds. Orson Spencer Hall is the first building on the campus to be built exclusively with state funds since Kingsbury Hall was completed almost 25 years ago. Orson Spencer Hall is the first new liberal arts classroom building to be built on the campus since 1900.

What prompted Mr. O'Conner to state on one occasion how parsimonious the state had been with the university and on another, this time a political rally for Gov. Lee, to state how generous Gov. Lee had been with the university?

David Holmes,
Bountiful, Utah

Review the Facts

Editor, Tribune: As one who has had an active part since the beginning in George D. Clyde's candidacy, I feel that I know the facts, and therefore ask all fair-minded people to review them with me.

1. The campaign for Mr. Clyde was planned and directed from the beginning by a group of honest citizens who see in Mr. Clyde a man ideally fitted to be Utah's governor. At no time in the campaign has there been anyone connected with the campaign's planning or direction who could be labeled as a "big politician."

2. Whether the bitter ones will admit it or not, the major factor in Clyde's victory in convention and in the primary is that Utahns are looking for a "new face" for governor.

3. One recent contributor to The Tribune forum said that Mr. Clyde came from "obscurity." Anyone who has read the newspaper in the past year knows that George Clyde did a superb piece of work in helping the Colorado River Storage project become a reality.

D. James Cannon

An archeologist says that men were broiling mammoths whole off the California coast 29,000 years ago. There were barbecues that were barbecues in those days.